

The Connecticut General Assembly



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REP. FLEISCHMANN AND SEN. BYE APPLAUD PASSAGE OF SB 503

Bill awards over \$8.1 million for construction of STEM labs at Hall High School

State Representative Andy Fleischmann (D-18th) and **Senator Beth Bye** (D-5th) are pleased to announce that a bill to provide a sizeable grant for the construction of classrooms at Hall High School has passed both the House and the Senate.

The bill, SB 503, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State For Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes and Authorizing State Grant Commitments For School Building Projects, awards Hall High School a grant of \$8.125 million for construction of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) laboratory classrooms. This grant is approximately \$3 million more than West Hartford would receive for normal school construction – reflecting the STEM and 21st century skills focus of these new laboratory facilities.

“Science and technology classes help students develop their critical thinking skills, analytical skills, and communication skills, all of which are needed for our young people to become future innovators, researchers, and problem solvers for our state,” said Rep. Fleischmann. “The original cost of this project was approximately \$12.5 million. In championing this bill, I am proud to say that, working with Senator Bye and Reps. Becker and Verrengia, we were able to secure a larger reimbursement for this project than West Hartford traditionally receives. This higher reimbursement saves the town of West Hartford \$3,000,000, and allows our students to get the best education without burdening our taxpayers.”

Normally, West Hartford would have received a reimbursement of approximately \$5.125 million for this project. However, thanks to the efforts of Rep. Fleischmann, Sen. Bye, and Reps. Becker and Verrengia, West Hartford was able to secure a reimbursement of \$3 million additional, given the forward-looking, skills-focused nature of these new STEM labs.

The same piece of legislation also included language helping the town of West Hartford to secure state support for security upgrades for Sedgwick Middle School and Bugbee Elementary School in the coming year.

"Once again the State of Connecticut is making targeted, wise investments in the future of our children while saving local taxpayers from bearing the full cost of these improvements," Sen. Bye said. "I'm proud of our work together as a delegation, and proud of the opportunities this STEM lab will provide our students."

The bill will now be sent to the Governor's Office for his signature.

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